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Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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DEPT PASS TO: OFFICE OF SENATOR TED STEVENS
ATTENTION: MIKE TODD
U.S. SENATE, WASHDC

FROM SENATOR TED STEVENS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON
SUBJ: SEABEDS

1. SIXTH PREPARATORY MEETING OF UN SEABEDS COMMITTEE FOR FORTH-COMING LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE PROCEEDING SLOWLY. MAJOR ISSUES INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF AGREE-MENT, EXTENT OF JURISDICTION OF COASTAL STATES, AND TYPE OF CONTROL OF RESOURCES WITHIN JURISDICTION.

2. REGARDING FISHERIES, U.S. IS PRESSING SPECIES APPROACH WHICH WOULD GIVE COASTAL STATES JURISDICTION OVER RESIDENT AND ANADROMOUS FISHERIES AND PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR MIGRATORY FISH SUCH AS TUNA. THREE GROUPS NOTICABLE HERE IN FISHERIES: 1) CONSERVATIVE-SUCH AS BRITISH, USSR AND JAPAN WHICH WOULD LIMITE COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION TO NARROW TERRITORIAL SEA; 2) MIDDLE GROUND-INCLUDING U.S. WHICH SEEKS SPECIES APPROACH; AND 3) EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION CONCEPT OF MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS WHICH SEEKS TOTAL, EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OVER ALL FISHERIES AND MINERALS WITHIN SPECIFIC ZONE, NORMALLY 200 MILES.

3. CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM IN FISHERIES SECTOR NOTICEABLE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS FISHING ARTICLE. HERETOFORE, FISHING, MINERALS, NVIGATION AND OTHER
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ISSUES BOGGED DOWN INFORMAL LARGE GROUP. TWO DAYS AGO, CANADA'S

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PAUL LAPOINTE (OTTAWA) WITH SUPPORT OF OTHER FISHING NATIONS, INCLUDING U.S. INITIATED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF ALL FISHING NATIONS AND PROGRESS SEEMS IMMINENT UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENT.

4. DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE CONCEPT OF PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF AGREEMENT BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS IF AGREEMENT IS FINALLY REACHED. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE UNILATERAL LEGISLATION CONSISTENT WITH AGREEMENT AS INTERIM MEASURE, RATHER THAN AWAIT NOTIFICATION OF FORMAL AGREEMENT BY ALL SIGNATORY NATIONS. MY LEGISLATION INTRODUCED LAST FRIDAY COULD BE VEHICLE FOR U.S. TO TAKE INTERIM ACTION IF U.S. POSITION PREVAILS.

5. SEABEDS COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSING POLLUTION PROBLEMS-- FROM LAND AND VESSEL-SOURCES AND FROM SEABED EXPLORATION AND EXPOLITATION. STANDARDS FOR VESSEL CONSTRUCTION UNDER DISCUSSION. GROUP OF 77-THE LESSER DEVELOPED NATIONS-NOW SEEKS A DOUBLE STANDARD. THIS WOULD INVOLVE TOUGH VESSEL CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS U.S. AND LESSER GUIDELINES FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. U.S. IS OPPOSING DOUBLE STANDARD CONCEPT. ALASKA NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS BECAUSE MAGNUSON-STEVENS AMENDMENT TO ALASKA PIPELINE BILL REQUIRED COASTAL SHIPPING-INCLUDING VALDEZ TANKERS-TO COMPLY WIT COAST GUARD PROPOSED REGULATIONS. REPEAT-U.S. SEEKING STRICT WORLD-WIDE ANTI-POLLUTION STANDARDS.

6. SEABED MINERALS ALSO SERIOUS DISCUSSED. BASIC ISSUE INVOLVES EXTENT OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION, I.E., CONTINENTAL SHELF OR TO EDGE OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN. CONCEPT BEING DISCUSSED ALSO INVOLVES MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING RESOURCES BEYOND NATIONALJURISDICTION IN THE SEABED UNDER HIGH SEAS. ALASKA HAS SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN OUTCOME OF THIS DISCUSSION ALSO WITH 65 0/0 OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OF U.S.

7. LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING INVOLVES 91 NATIONS, COASTAL, LAND LOCKED AND SHELF LOCKED. BASIC U.S. POSITION PREMISED ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S MAY 23, 1970 OCEAN POLICY STATEMENT. ALASKA ROLE HERE SIGNIFICANT-75 0/0 OF WORK FORCE IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY RELATED TO FISHING, ANNUAL PRODUCT ABOUT $100 MILLION. ALASKA'S SALMON COMPRISE ABOUT 60 0/0 OF WORLD'S SUPPLY

OF SALMON. OTHER STATE SIGNIFICANT MOSTLY INVOLVES HALIBUT, SHRIMPS, KING CRAB, HERRING AND HERRING ROE.

8. FISHING ADVISORS ALSO PRESENT, INCLUDES WALT YOUNKER-SALMON INDUSTRY; CHARLES CARRY-TUNA INDUSTRY; HOWARD POLLOCK REPRESENTING NOAA AND AMBASSADOR DON MCKERNAN HERE AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES AND OCEAN AFFAIRS.

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9. HAVE MET TODAY WITH FISHERIES ADVISORS. ATTENDED SESSIONS MONDAY, TUESDAY. ALSO ATTENDED DELEGATION BRIEFINGS TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

10. TIMETABLE INVOLVES COMMENCEMENT OF ACTUAL LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK TOWARD END OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN LATE NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER FOR ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PURPOSES, WITH SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL-MAY IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE NEXT YEAR.

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